

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

System and method for refreshing databases. A refresh mechanism may allow a data warehouse to remain available to users while the data is being refreshed.

5 Embodiments may be used to perform low impact off-host data loading for databases including, but not limited to, data warehouses and to reduce the data loading window. A checkpoint of the production database may be generated. A database clone may be generated from the checkpoint. In one embodiment, the generated database clone includes references to data in the production database and not the data itself, and is thus

10 storage space-efficient. Data may be loaded to the database clone. The checkpoint may then be switched to be the entry point to the production database after the loading is complete.